

HB 653 -- HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

SPONSOR: Gardner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill repeals the provisions which specify that certain provisions must not be construed to grant authority to state teachers colleges to confer postgraduate degrees except those which may be necessary to the training of teachers for the free public schools of the state or degrees other than those in education and arts and sciences.

Currently, the board of regents of Harris-Stowe State University is authorized to offer undergraduate degree programs with an emphasis on selected applied professional disciplines that will meet the needs of the St. Louis metropolitan area. The bill authorizes the board to offer baccalaureate degree programs and graduate degree programs that will meet the needs of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will increase opportunities for students in the St. Louis area and place Harris-Stowe University on an even playing field with other colleges and universities in the state.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Nasheed; Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack, President, Harris-Stowe State University; Missouri National Education Association; and Council on Public Higher Education in Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.